

TRACKING STATISTICS FOR HIGH PERFORMING SLR STATIONS. J. Woo¹, O. Brogdon² and M. R. Pearlman³, ¹Exelis Inc (7855 Walker Dr. Ste 400, Greenbelt, MD, 20770, Justine.Woo@exelisinc.com), ²Exelis Inc, ³Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory

The recent SLR expansion of GNSS tracking provided an opportunity to test the current capacity of the network and to estimate the impact of the expanded GNSS tracking on LEO and LAGEOS data yield over the period 2008 - 2014, although the data yield in 2014 statistics covered only through September. The study was motivated by the GNSS Campaign that was organized for the period 1 August - 30 September 2014, but many of these stations had already begun working an expanded GNSS mode of operation in early 2014.

The data from eleven of the highest performing stations was examined to see how the number of GNSS, LAGEOS and LEO passes and normal points changed over time and whether the data yield on LEO and LAGEOS satellites suffered as GNSS tracking was expanded. The results showed that most of these stations had no loss of LEO and LAGEOS data yield, in fact in some, it increased. However in a few stations LEO and LAGEOS data yield did fall off. This needs closer examination with the stations because the results may have been dominated by system related issues.